REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the present application.

By this amendment, claims 11-14 and 21-26 have been canceled, claims 1-10 and 15-20 have been amended, and new claims 27-29 have been added.

Claims 1 and 15 are independent.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 6,904,265 (Valdivia et al.).

The Office Action rejects claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,272,341 (Threadgill et al.) in view of USPN 5,715,297 (Wiedman).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as follows. The claims of the present application, as amended, claim a system and method for providing automated distributed provisioning of resources in a satellite communications system. The claims recite an apparatus and method whereby pools of satellite capacity are allocated amongst remote network operators (who may also be customer network users/operators, such as network service providers or wholesale service providers) at geographically distributed locations. Each remote network operator communicates with the capacity management unit of the system through a network interface, and provides capacity allocation plans for allocating the capacity of the pools assigned to that operator.

See e.g., Claim 1: *a satellite resource allocation plan, comprising information related to the satellite payload configuration over time and an allocation of satellite capacity pools amongst a plurality of remote network operators at geographically distributed locations; ...*
a capacity management unit having a plurality of network interfaces accessible by the remote network operators, wherein the capacity management unit is adapted to automatically (i) receive a capacity allocation plan from any one of the remote network operators requesting a capacity allocation within one or more capacity pools allocated to said one network operator

Claim 15: *receiving, at a capacity management unit of the satellite communications system, a capacity allocation plan from one of a plurality of remote network operators at geographically distributed locations, said capacity allocation plan requesting a capacity allocation within one or more capacity pools allocated to said one network operator;*

Based on the requested capacity allocation plans, the system and method provide for the automatic modification of the satellite resource allocation plan and the satellite payload configuration, accordingly.

Valdivia, however, while disclosing a system architecture and method for managing capacity in a satellite payload with spot beam antennas and a switching element between the antenna elements and the demodulators; Valdivia fails to disclose the system and methods as claimed in the present invention. Specifically, Valdivia fails to disclose a system or method for automated capacity management by geographically distributed operators, where such operators remotely manage (over a network connection) capacity allocated to them through a plurality of capacity pools. Valdivia, therefore, fails to anticipate the claims as amended in the present application.

Similarly, the combination of Threadgill and Wiedman also fails to disclose a system or method for automated capacity management by geographically distributed operators, where such operators remotely manage (over a network connection) capacity allocated to them through a plurality of capacity pools. Specifically, Threadgill teaches the management of a mobile satellite system by a centralized Network Engineering and System Engineering (NE/SE) function. Further, Wiedman teaches the maintenance of a database of system users and the connection and switching of individual calls. The combination of Threadgill and Wiedman fails to disclose or suggest the automated management of system capacity by network users geographically distributed across the network, as claimed in the present application. The combination of Threadgill and Wiedman, therefore, fails to render the claims as amended in the present application unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Craig Plastrik, at 301-601-7252, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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